



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

August 13, 2009

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## **MOTION TO SUPPORT SECRETARY OF STATE DEBRA BOWEN'S PROPOSED ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION BILL (ITEM NO. 5, AGENDA OF AUGUST 18, 2009)**

Item No. 5 on the August 18, 2009 Agenda is a motion by Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Ridley-Thomas recommending that the Board of Supervisors support Secretary of State Debra Bowen's proposed Election Day Registration Bill, and instruct the Sacramento advocates to vigorously pursue passage of the legislation when it is introduced.

Under current law, if a voter has not registered by the 15<sup>th</sup> day before Election Day, he/she is not allowed to vote. This includes voters who moved to a new county; new residents of the State; voters who changed their name or party affiliation; or individuals who want to register and vote for the first time.

The proposed legislation would eliminate the 15-day limitation to register and vote for eligible citizens, provided that the following requirements are met: 1) prospective voters appear in-person at the election official's office; 2) show a form of identification allowed by the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA); 3) complete a voter registration form; and 4) cast a provisional ballot. Additionally, the proposal would require election officials to: 1) provide the opportunity for voters to register and vote at a county elections office during the 14-day period prior to and through the close of polls on Election Day; 2) process voter registrations received during that period in the same manner as all other voter registrations are processed to determine whether a person is eligible to vote before counting the ballot; and 3) count ballots cast by voters whose eligibility is verified and reject those ballots where a person's eligibility cannot be verified.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

***Please Conserve Paper – This Document and Copies are Two-Sided  
Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only***

Each Supervisor  
August 13, 2009  
Page 2

According to a fact sheet from the Secretary of State's Office, several states, including Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, and Wyoming offer provisions similar to the proposed legislation.

During the 1999-2000 Legislative Session, your Board took an oppose-unless-amended position on AB 1094 (Hertzberg), to allow late registrants to register and vote at the Registrar-Recorders Office only. Subsequently, your Board took no position when AB 1094 was amended to change voter registration procedures, including providing for: 1) a 15-day period instead of a 29-day period relative to receipt of an affidavit of registration to be eligible to vote in elections; and 2) a 14-day period instead of a 28-day period in which county election officials are required to accept affidavits of registration. AB 1094 became Chapter 899, Statutes of 2000.

The County's Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk indicates that the Secretary of State's proposal represents a reasoned approach and one that, with a 2011 implementation timetable, allows the Department an opportunity to prepare for and manage the implementation timeframe. The County's Registrar also notes that his Department has worked closely with the Secretary of State's Office and other county registrars on the structure and timeframes established in the proposal. The Department believes this is a good proposal and one that will help ensure greater opportunity for eligible citizens to register to vote and participate in elections.

**Because there is no existing Board policy regarding the elimination of the 15-day limitation to register and vote for eligible citizens to allow them to register and vote up to Election Day, support for this proposal is a matter for Board policy determination.**

WTF:RA  
MR:RM:er

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk